

January 25, 1932

Elder John Kiesz,
Stanberry,
Mo.

My Dear Brother:

Glad to get your letter and while it is fresh in mind I will make reply. I am sending you a copy of the Sep Gathering Call which is largely devoted to a discussion of the first angel's message.

Our printer has been sick for some time and with an extra rush of work he has not been able to publish our tracts on the three angel's messages yet. I have also made a note and will send you a copy of the tracts as soon as it is printed.

Now in reply to your question. It is quite true. We have no church organization to which we can recommend our readers. However, my brother our principal burden is to gather people to Christ. When people get acquainted with Christ they will take care of the organization. You don't have to teach black birds to gather together and you can't teach them to gather together. God's people have always done the most effective work before they crippled their activity by organization.

Don't misunderstand me. I am not opposed to organization. I believe in the new testament's plan of church polity.

It is quite common for Adventists to call our paper the scattering Call, and from their stand point it is quite rightly named. It certainly does scatter the myths of their theology and it does scatter their members and these scattered ones always get together if they are within living distance of each other.

We have local churches scattered from ocean to ocean and in many of the foreign fields, and believe me my Brother, they are active and aggressive and most of them are filled with spirit.

It is quite true many of our readers have joined your church and we never have tried to discourage them. Most of them remain warm friends of our work after they join your church. In as much as you have asked a definite

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question, I will answer it frankly. As I said above, I have never discouraged people from uniting with your church, but I could not feel free to publicly recommend such a move.

I will give you some of my reasons. Your church is bound down by organization. Quite as much as the S. D. A church, and according to some of your critics it is even more so. Reports come to me that your organization has been considered so oppressive that quite a number of your churches are with drawing.

I am sorry to hear this unless it should lead your church to conform its organization more nearly with the new Testament. My second criticism may sound harsh, although I do not offer it in that spirit. All of my observations compel me to this conclusion. Whenever a church takes the position that it is the only church that God is using or that it is the church, that more perfectly represents God's work here on earth, then any other church I firmly believe such a church has fallen or is falling from grace.

You know S. D. A.'s take the same position and I believe it is displeasing to heaven, but from the standpoint of aggressiveness and numbers, they have you people "beaten to a frazzle". If God is dependant on your organization to carry the closing message to the world then I pity God in his efforts to reach or to carry the message to all people.

My Brother, I do not write this to antagonize you or your organization and I wouldn't put a straw in the way of your work. My acquaintance with your people has been most favorable. I have met some very devoted Christian men and women with whom I have had sweet fellowship, and I cherish the most friendly feeling towards those of my acquaintance and your work in general.

I make these suggestions not to discourage but to help you to be more efficient.

Again word has just come to me that your church recently passed a recommendation forbidding any minister in the Denomination to teach any Bible truths not indorsed by the General Conference.

If this is truth I think it is a great mistake. Every church that has departed from the simplicity of the gospel has taken just such a move will always shut out any advance truth.

S. D. A.'s have followed that policy for many years and you know they are spiritually as dead as the dead sea.

Yes, I receive the Bible Advocate but I must confess I am not a very habitual reader of it. This is not due to a lack of interest but to a lack of time.

Trusting this will be received in the spirit in which it is written.

I remain,

Your Brother,

ESB:BE